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Psychological Evaluation**Name:** Ernest "Ernie" Lopez**Date of Birth:** 11/13/70**Age:** 30 years**Dates of Evaluation:** 3/22/01, 3/30/01**Evaluation Procedure:** Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, and Clinical Interview.**Referral Information:**

This man was referred for a psychological evaluation by his caseworker with Texas Child Protective Services (TDPRS).

Background information:

This man lives in a household with his wife DeAnn (27-years old) and their two children, Cody (3-years old) and Sienna (10-months old). The family has been living in the home of this man's parents since February 2001.

Ernie is employed as a mechanic for a local company. He works days and has been at the same job since May 2000. DeAnn is not working at this time. He reports that he and the other members of his family are all in good health. He reports that he takes no medication and does not drink alcohol.

Away from work Ernie reports that he spends much time with his family and they often do things together on the weekends. He has a hobby of racing drag cars, which he does at a local track about 5 times a years. He reports having a number of friends around town,

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and several friends centered around his interest in racing. In addition to regular contact with his parents, he has two brothers in town that he regularly sees.

Ernie is presently released on bond from charges resulting from the death of a child in his home. He denies any other arrests or involvement with authorities for criminal behavior.

Ernie grew in Amarillo in the household of his parents as the oldest of three children. His father has worked as a mechanic for the past 30-years. Ernie reports that he did well in school as a child. He says he was elected the most popular boy in his class in for several years in middle and high school. He reports that he played football on the school team and was in ROTC in high school. After graduating from high school in 1990, he found a good paying job in a warehouse. He lived at home and worked at a warehouse for three years. He then took a job with a heavy equipment dealer and worked in the warehouse there for three years.

In 1994, he moved in with a girlfriend, Robin (who was 19-years old when he was 25-years old) and lived with her for about a year. They had a child, Nikki, born in 1995. He reports that he and Robin had a falling out and separated. After he separated, he agreed to pay \$160 a month in child support. He reports that he sees the girl regularly and is current in paying his child support.

In September 1996, Ernie began dating his current wife, DeAnn. In February 1997, DeAnn became pregnant. In May 1997, he and DeAnn married and moved in with Ernie's parents. In November 1997, their first child, Cody was born. In early 1998, the family moved into their own household.

Ernie was working as a mechanic and DeAnn worked part-time as a hair stylist. The couple's second child, Sienna, was born in May 2000. DeAnn stayed home with the children after Sienna was born. In August 2000, DeAnn began baby-sitting three children

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out of her home.

One day near the end of October, DeAnn left the children with Ernie while she went shopping. The youngest baby reportedly stopped breathing while alone with Ernie. The child was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. Ernie was arrested, based on the assumption that Ernie was somehow responsible for the death. Ernie's other two children were taken into CPS custody and placed with DeAnn's sister. In December, CPS allowed DeAnn to live in the same household with her children, and she moved into her sister's house.

In February 2001, Ernie was released from jail on bond. He reports that CPS is requiring that he and DeAnn live with his parents in order to supervise them with their children.

Interview and Observations:

This man arrived on time for the next appointment. He was informed of the purposes and uses of the evaluation. He had no questions about the procedures. He told the examiner that he would be unable to discuss the legal case against him on the advice of his attorney.

This man reports that he is feeling more hopeful about his legal situation, and expects that charges against him will soon be "resolved." He states that he and DeAnn are holding up well under the family's stress. He reports that his relationship with DeAnn is closer and better as a result of his being incarcerated. He says he is not aware of any effect that his incarceration has had on any of his children. He says his parents are happy to have him out of jail.

Ernie reports that he has no history of violence, and no problems with impulse control or inappropriate behavior with children or adults.

This man is rather disingenuous in his efforts to minimize the problems in his life. He says that, "God will not allow bad things to happen to me." He apparently does not

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consider being incarcerated for four months on a homicide charge to be "bad." The examiner's open incredulity at his calm, naive and passive reaction to the recent crisis in his life, evokes little response from him. He dismisses the examiner's point that even innocent people can be convicted of crimes. He shrugs off the events of the past several months, and says that his life should return to normal soon and he hopes to forget about all of these problems. He denies that there are any serious repercussions on his family. He does not see that he or DeAnn are suffering any significant problems or excessive stress at this time. He denies any unusual or notable psychological symptoms in himself.

Test Results:

Intelligence testing showed this man to have average intelligence. His general estimated IQ of 96 falls at the 39th percentile of the adult population. There was no difference between his verbal and nonverbal thinking skills.

On personality testing this man made an effort to present a socially acceptable appearance. He was resistant to admitting personal shortcomings. He reports no significant psychological problems, worries or symptoms on the test. Assuming that denial is not present in this man's response to the test items, he appears to be an essentially well-functioning (i.e., "normal") individual with no major personality disturbance, although he may be undergoing psychosocial stressors and therefore may be exhibiting troublesome symptoms that are largely situational and transient. He appears concerned with appearances—that is, with being seen by others as composed, virtuous, and conventional in his behavior.

Even if his behavior largely appears within the normal range, this man expresses fear of public humiliation, a compliance with social conventions and propriety, and receptivity to the beliefs and values of institutional authorities. He tries to appear self-effacing, noncompetitive, and nonassertive. A strong sense of duty to obey and to follow others may typify his social relationships. He may seek to maintain an image of

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being a considerate and cooperative person, one who is subservient and unambitious. Often expressing feelings of personal inadequacy, he may tend to downplay his attributes and abilities. It is probable that this man lacks appreciable insight into himself and others. He strives to lead a life of disciplined self-control, while avoiding much self-assertion.

Diagnostic Impression (DSM IV):

- I. Deferred.
- II. Compulsive and Narcissistic Traits.
- IV. Stressors: felony arrest, four months of incarceration.
- V. GAF Functioning, Code =65, mild symptoms

Summary and Discussion:

This man does not show evidence from his history, the clinical interview or the psychological testing suggesting that he has problems or behavior patterns that fall outside the normal and healthy range of human functioning. His refusal to discuss the circumstances of concern to CPS in this case, limits the examiner's insight into this client.

There is no evidence available to this examiner to question this man's portrayal of himself as an innocent victim caught in an unfortunate situation. Although his calm and naive response to the situation strikes the examiner as highly unusual, it does not, by itself, suggest psychological abnormality.

This man strives to be seen as proper and conventional in spite of the ambivalent feelings that exist under his controlled surface. He has a strong sense of duty, and it takes prolonged stress for him to display upsetting or angry feelings. He is not likely to openly reveal problems or complain about situations in his life. He does not appear interested in any psychological support services.

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Recommendations:

This man shows no signs of serious psychological problems, and there is no basis to recommend external interventions in his life. He shows sufficient social support from family and friends to help him cope with the recent crisis in his life. Unless and until other information becomes available, there is no basis to make any professional recommendations for this man at this time.



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